

Poetry.

JESUS WENT BEFORE.

Their faces to Jerusalem.

They stepped with laggard feet,
Half timorous, defiant half.

At what they went to meet.
But as they rested, or they talked
Their sad forebodings e'er,
Still leading on the little band,
Their Master went before.

He saw in vision maddened throng;
He saw the crowded hall
Where scribe and priest should mock and flout,
Where cruel scourge should fall;
He saw the cross; its shadows lay
The toilsome pathway o'er;
But, pressing on with ardent soul,
The Master went before.

To-day thy pledged disciples, Lord,
Meet sorrow, pain and shame,
Their watchward in the trial time
Thine own all-conquering name.
Thou flesh be weak, and spirit faint,
And heart be spent and sore,
They cannot fail in any strife
While thou shalt go before.

In presence of thy bitter foes,
In midst of dark defeat,
They yet shall snatch a victory
And taste a triumph sweet;
Nor death itself shall crush them, Lord.
Its final conflict o'er,
The ransomed hosts shall shout and sing,
"Our Savior went before!"

—Margaret E. Sangster.

Contributions.

THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE WORLD.

JACOB CASSEL.

The evangelization of the world is a great and important theme which does not receive the consideration of the church in general, and the Brethren church in particular, that the Gospel demands.

If we as a church preached the evangelization of the world as we preach ordinances, our work would be deeper and wider than it now is, mankind would be greatly benefitted, and God highly honored. This is no fling at ordinances, they are a part of God's word, and must be taught and obeyed, but they are only intended to fit and prepare men for the work of salvation, and not as the means of salvation, in themselves. Man's salvation depends upon doing the will of God. Matt. 7:21, and his whole will is not comprehended in ordinances alone.

It is my purpose to write several articles for the EVANGELIST on the subject of Missions, trusting thereby to cultivate a more critical study of God's words upon the subject, and a deeper interest in our fellow-beings, whether they be the members of our families, the people of our immediate communities, the degraded of

our large cities, or the pagans and heathen of foreign lands. While our friends are nearest and dearest to us, God is no respecter of persons; the soul of the lowliest wretch in our land, or the most benighted heathen of foreign lands is just as precious in the sight of God as that of the man or woman of refinement and culture. I am aware that cultivated humanity is so thoroughly blinded by self-esteem that it will not admit the truth of the above statement, but it is true nevertheless; unregenerated humanity stands upon one common level, both as to its source and destiny; as to its source the Psalmist says, "Behold I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." Ps. 51:5. Who of us can truthfully claim a higher source of the natural man? Through the transgression of Adam sin has been transmitted equally to the whole race, hence as to source there is no difference between the highest and lowest, the wise or the ignorant, the great or small, the rich or poor. As to destiny the Master settles the whole question in a nutshell in Mark 16:16, "Whosoever believes, and is baptized shall be saved; and whosoever believes not shall be damned." Jesus makes no distinctions between men of high degree and low degree, between white and black, between Americans and Africans, between respectable and degraded; one condition for the whole race. Even a mere passive faith in Christ will not effect a change, as Jesus emphatically declares that, "Not every one that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." In the epistolary writings it is asserted and reiterated time and again, that if men have not the Spirit (person) of Christ they are none of his. There is therefore, no escape from the conclusion that outside of an active faith in Christ, the whole human family stands upon one common level as far as salvation is concerned, that "God is no respecter of persons," consequently it is of just as much importance that the Gospel is preached to the depraved of our land, and to heathens of other lands as it is that it is preached to our own relatives and friends. Some one has related the following prayer, "God bless me and my wife, my son John and his wife, us four, and no more." This is of course only an extravaganza, but does it not truthfully portray the life and conduct of many professing Christians?

The Lord Jesus commanded his disciple to preach the Gospel to every creature; this of course implies only such creatures as can comprehend and assimilate the truth, not the brute of the field. For centuries the church contended that

the lower order of beings, somewhat resembling civilized humanity, such as the cannibals of the South Sea Islands were brutes, but that delusion has been dispelled by the result of missionary effort during the present century. In the inhabitants of the Island of Terra Del Fuego, Prof. Darwin thought he had found the missing link between man and the monkey, but to the utter confusion of that theory that island has been civilized and christianized by the power of the Gospel. Prof. Darwin acknowledged his mistake, and became a contributor himself toward the Missionary fund of the South Sea Islands. The fact that those Patagonians, who were regarded as the very lowest order of beings resembling the human form, have been christianized is proof positive that all peoples, nations and tribes should have the Gospel preached to them, and it is just as much your business, and my business to see that it is done as it is of the most ardent missionary on the field. It is of course not possible for every one to go into the foreign, or even in the home field, actively, but it is possible to consecrate our lives to work, and do everything whether business, or labor, as unto the Lord.

The evangelization of the world should be the highest aim of every true child of God. Indeed it is questionable whether one can in the fullest sense be a true child of God without a life consecrated to the evangelization of the world, or the salvation of others. God has committed the work to the agency of man; the plan of redemption was laid before the creation; it was developed and consummated through the agency of the Son of God; but must now be worked out by man or fail, and to the extent that if it fails man is responsible, especially the professed man of God, the Christian. If the language of the prophet Ezekiel is to be literally applied, many professors will have a hard time of it at the judgment. "When I say unto the wicked, O, thou wicked man, thou shalt surely die, if thou doest not speak to warn the wicked from his way, he shall die in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at thine hand." Ezek. 33:8.

Professors of religion that have experienced the least change of heart, that have received the minutest touch of divine life, rejoice in the salvation of their souls, but many scarcely ever think comprehensively of the agencies through which their salvation has been brought about, attributing it exclusively to the grace and power of God through Christ; this is a very narrow view to take of it. I venture the assertion without fear of successful contradiction, that nine hundred and ninety-nine out of every thousand that are converted,